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Dinah's Hollow Project Stakeholder Update – 4 November 2026

Works Update

All bank stabilisation works – soil nailing and mesh installation – is complete.

Drainage and kerbing work through the Hollow is nearing completion – we're working our way through the Hollow with kerbing work following behind the drainage gangs.

Shortcrete walling is well underway and should be complete by the end of the month.

New ducting and chambers for the shuttle signals will be completed by the end of the month, with the signal installation carried out in early December.

Carriageway surfacing will take place in December.

As previously mentioned, all construction work is currently on track to be finished in December and to have the C13 reopen by the end of the year, as planned.

Further completion and reinstatement works may be required in the New Year, but these will be carried out 'offline' and with the road open.

C13 / Melbury Abbas Temporary Traffic Arrangements

Due to the road closure, gritting through Melbury Abbas will return at a reduced service (as implemented last winter) at the start of our winter maintenance season.

While the C13 is closed:

- the C13 between the village and the top of Spread Eagle Hill will be treated as a Community Link route
- no additional roads in Melbury Abbas will be gritted. Salting can only take place in line with our existing Dorset Council winter maintenance policy

When the C13 reopens gritting along the C13 will return to its usual service.

Information about our winter service policy, gritting routes and planned action can be found online at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/gritting

A350 Signage, Speed Limits & Temporary Signals

We've carried out traffic surveys north and south of Fontmell Magna and at Iwerne Minster to assess the effectiveness of the increased enforcement activity carried out by Dorset Police.

Data shows that the A350 still carries the vast majority of the anticipated diverted traffic in both directions; an overall increase in traffic of 60%, and within this the HGV use of the road has increased by 30%.

Although there has been a reduction in speeds following enforcement activity, mean speeds remain substantially higher than would be expected within a signed-only 20mph environment and recorded speeds remain well above those typically considered appropriate for a 20mph speed limit.

As the stabilisation work is scheduled for completion in December and the route continues to be used in both directions by diverted traffic and HGVs, the decision has been made to keep the temporary speed limits in force until the C13 reopens when work has finished.

Dorset Police has recommended that the temporary limit continues to be monitored until it is removed at the end of the year.